**4th Grade “Accessible for All” Note reading Review with Boomwhackers**

4.ML.2.2 Interpret through voice and/or instruments simple pitch notation in the treble clef in major keys.

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The end of the year round school year is a time when I try to do lots of really fun, silly and even crazy stuff, since the kids are feeling and acting crazy. Their traditional friends and siblings are into summer and they are ready for it to be their turn. Keeping focus it difficult!

For my students, Fourth grade is a year rife with note reading, due to recorders.

Materials:

Familiar songs that can be projected on board of some type.

Boomwhackers or…

Colored tone bars

Orff barred with color coding stickers

Boomwhackers are a fun and successful way for them to use their note reading skills. If you do not have boomwhackers, use your Orff instruments or tone bells/bars. Put colored stickers on the notes for students who need the help)

I have the Recorder Karate songs saved as smart board files.

After introducing them to the boomwhackers so they see that each color is a pitch, I hand out just B, A and G to every other student. Then I pull up the recorder songs and color the notes to match. They are used to looking at for the last couple of months, with Hot Cross Buns first.

They get to play the song, then pass the boomwhacker to the person next to them. Since the CD plays each song 3 times, we also play each song 3 times ( passing each time) which allows everyone a chance to play different notes throughout the class.

Next: Gently Sleep, then Merrily We Roll Along… and so forth. The second class period, I might add harmony notes.

Amazingly, they love this, even though they have been playing these songs for many weeks. Playing something with a different instrument really reinforces success and skills.

If do not use Recorder Karate there are also some sites that use colored notes on familiar songs ( which I also do with the class)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpFXOF10EuE> Jingle Bells

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paDZ482RcMs> America

You can of course, use any song that your students are familiar with and color code it. I have done this and it is very time consuming, even with a smart board. I therefore recommend doing research to find sites where songs are already available.

Another option is to write the song words in color. ( if your students can read of course)

If students are able, challenge some of them by giving them 2 different notes in one song or create an ostinato. There are so many variations to meet so many needs and ability levels.